

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 12974 161400Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T CAIRO 12974

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, IS, US, EG
SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION TO GOE OF DAVAR REPORT OF
- EISENSTAT REMARKS

REF: (A) STATE 123849, (B) CAIRO 12812

1. WHEN MEETING WITH FONMIN KAMEL TODAY, I PROVIDED REQUESTED CLARIFICATIONS ON DAVAR ARTICLE ATTRIBUTED TO WHITE HOUSE ADVISER EISENSTAT (REF A). KAMEL'S PRINCIPAL CONCERN WAS WITH THE ALLEGATION THAT WE HAD AGREED WITH PRIMIN BEGIN THAT ISRAELI MILITARY FORCES MIGHT REMAIN IN WEST BANK/GAZA INDEFINITELY.

2. I HAD ALREADY BRIEFED KAMEL ABOUT BEGIN VISIT (PARA 4, STATE 117796) AND REMINDED HIM OF OUR EARLIER PERTINENT DISCUSSION. I EMPHASIZED THAT IN NEITHER BEGIN NOR DAYAN VISITS WERE ANY AGREEMENTS REACHED WITH ISRAELIS ON ISSUES CONCERNED WITH PEACE SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS. ON THE POINT ABOUT WHICH HE (THROUGH AHMED MAHER) HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN, I REMINDED HIM THAT GOE KNOWS OUR VIEW THAT DURING TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, ARRANGEMENTS WIL HAVE TO BB MADE FOR AN ISRAELI SECURITY PRESENCE IN WEST

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BANK/GAZA. WE RECOGNIZE THAT ISRAELI SECURITY CONCERNS WILL EXTEND BEYOND TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, BUT CONSIDER THAT THESE HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT. I STRESSED WE HAVE NOT TAKEN ANY POSITION ON SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS AND BELIEVE THESE CAN ONLY BE DETERMINED BY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN AND AMONG PARTIES AT SUCH TIME AS TRANSITIONAL REGIME IS CONVERTED INTO A FINAL

SETTLEMENT.

3. KAMEL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION. HE SAID THAT POSITION ON ABOVE CONTROVERSIAL ITEM, AS EXPLAINED TO HIM, IS REASONABLE AND ONE THAT GOE CAN ACCEPT. HE DID INDICATE SOME UNEASINESS THAT STORIES OF THIS SORT SEEM TO BE LEAKING ALL THE TIME AND COMMENTED THEY CAUSE GOE EMBARRASSMENT WITH OTHER ARAB STATES. HE SUGGESTED THAT AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF SOME SORT BE ISSUED BY WHITE HOUSE, STATE DEPT OR SOME ORGANIZATION MAKING IT CLEAR THAT DAVAR STORY ATTRIBUTED TO MR. EISENSTAT IS NOT OFFICIAL USG POSITION. I SUGGESTED THAT ANY SUCH STATEMENT WILL ONLY FOCUS MORE ATTENTION ON STATEMENT AND COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. SO LONG AS GOE KNOWS OUR PERTINENT POSITION, I HOPED IT WOULD NOT PAY ATTENTION TO TENDENTIOUS STORIES COMING OUT OF ISRAEL OR ELSEWHERE. IF GOE AT ANY TIME HAS QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT USG POSITION I INVITED HIM TO LET ME KNOW.

4. I ALSO ASKED KAMEL WHETHER AMBASSADOR GHORBAL'S NEW HAMPSHIRE SPEECH WAS INTENDED TO SIGNAL, AS SOME HAVE SUGGESTED, A NEW EGYPTIAN APPROACH TO THE PEACE PROCESS. KAMEL REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE. HE SAID THE IDEA ARTICULATED BY GHORBAL IS THE LATTER'S, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH GOE POLICY. HE DENIED THAT GOE WAS DELIBERATELY USING GHORBAL'S SPEECH TO PUT FORWARD ITS
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